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1981-1982 Annual Report

Georgia State University College of Law

Ben F. Johnson

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ANNUAL

REPORT

1981 - 1982

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

1981-1982

Annual Report

College of Law

Dean Ben F. Johnson

DEAN'S NARRATIVE

Historical Background

At the close of the fiscal year 1981-82, the College of Law stands ready to begin operation as an educational entity at Georgia State and will open for students with the commencement of the fall term 1982. So it is that the year 1981-82 is prologue, and the really significant report will come next year when, hopefully, we will be able to announce that the College of Law has been provisionally accredited by the American Bar Association.

Even as prologue, 1981-82 has its own peculiar significance which warrants incorporation into the record, and this will be the thrust of this annual report.

On August 19, 1981, the Board of Regents "authorized and directed" Georgia State University to begin planning a program of legal education leading to the J.D. (Doctor of Law) degree, and in due course the College of Law was created as the administrative unit through which to implement such a program.

More than seven years earlier, on November 19, 1974, the Board of Regents had authorized the establishment of a law school at Georgia State, but no arrangements for funding were made, and the law school was never begun.

Indeed, a formal projection of a law school at Georgia State had appeared earlier in the 1968 Report of the Georgia State College Committee on Academic Growth. This was a study invited in 1967 by Dr. George Simpson, Chancellor of the University System of Georgia. This Committee, whose membership included representatives from Albany State College, Emory University, University of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta University, as well as Georgia State College and the Executive Officers of the University System of Georgia, examined the future role of Georgia State College in the academic community and in the University System of Georgia. A school of law was proposed in this report, and it is interesting to note that the membership of the committee included representatives from Emory University, a private university with a law school in the metropolitan Atlanta area, and the University of Georgia with the only public law school in Georgia. Moreover, this report placed professional education in law high on the list of priorities for development of Georgia State as a major urban university.

Thus, it should be recognized that what is about to happen in the opening of the College of Law in September 1982, is the culmination of considerable planning and preparation over a period of more than fifteen years.

Following the August 19, 1981, mandate of the Board of Regents, Dr. Langdale, President of Georgia State University, established an Executive Task Force for the development of the College of Law composed of Drs. Langdale,

Suttles, Davis, Zubay, Miller and Johnson, C. He also appointed what was known as the Working Group for the development of the College of Law; this was the Executive Task Force expanded to include other major university administrators, namely, Drs. Ezell, Stansbury, Marshall, Russell and Robbins. There was also appointed a Lawyers Advisory Committee which included twenty-two prominent members of the legal profession in metropolitan Atlanta.

In September, 1981, Dean Orin L. Slagle of the Florida State University College of Law, formerly Dean of the Ohio State University College of Law, was engaged as a consultant, and he made an on-site visit to Georgia State on September 14 and 15 to advise the developmental groups about various courses of action required or advisable from the standpoint of future accreditation by the Association of American Law Schools. Likewise, Robert K. Walsh, Dean for many years of the Little Rock School of Law of the University of Arkansas, was engaged as a consultant, and he made an on-site visit to Georgia State on September 21 to advise the developmental groups about various courses of action required or advisable from the standpoint of future accreditation by the Section of Legal Education of the American Bar Association.

On September 16, Dr. Ben F. Johnson, Professor of Law at the Emory University School of Law for over 35 years and Dean of that Law School from 1961 through 1973, was contacted by Dr. Langdale about the prospect of becoming the Founding Dean of the projected College of Law. After negotiations, on October 1, he was appropriately appointed Interim Dean and Visiting Professor of Law. It was understood that he would continue with his regular teaching assignments at Emory for the remainder of the academic year, take early retirement at Emory as of August 31, 1982, and proceed immediately with the development of the College of Law for opening in September, 1982.

Physical Facilities

A task force under the direction of Dr. Joe B. Ezell, Associate Vice President for Institutional Planning, was set in motion early on to develop the physical plant necessary for accreditation of the projected College of Law. It suffices for this report to say that the members of the task force and the units under their direction are "on schedule" in providing the physical facilities necessary for the projected September opening and eventual accreditation.

College of Law Brochure

At the same time, likewise under the direction of Dr. Ezell and with personnel drafted from the Office of Institutional Planning, was begun the production of a suitable brochure directed at prospective law school applicants appropriately announcing and describing the projected program of legal education and providing admission forms and instructions. This was completed by extraordinary efforts in the form of an attractive mailing piece in time for late December distribution using the mailing list developed by the University Admissions Office and supplemented by responses to subsequent newspaper and other advertising.

Admissions

Early on, the Office of Admissions at Georgia State University, under the direction of Dr. George W. Stansbury, had turned to the task of dealing with inquiries from the public about admissions to the College of Law and had begun developing and maintaining a mailing list of interested persons. Three persons in the Office of Admissions, Mr. James S. Herndon, Mr. James Austin, and subsequently Ms. Marian Bridgman, were designated as the Law Admissions Office and assisted very effectively in the processing of admission applications. Completed applications have exceeded the 500 mark and the indications are that there will be an eventual pool of applicants in excess of 600. As of the time of this report the number of acceptances for admission approximates 125; the initial enrollment is projected at this time in the range of 160-175. It is interesting to note that completed applications have been received from 51 Georgia counties: 76% from the fifteen-county Atlanta Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, 11% from other Georgia counties, and 13% from out of state.

Faculty Selection

In December, the earliest possible time, affirmative action advertisements were appropriately placed to commence a search for six law faculty positions and a head law librarian. For the librarian position seventeen applications were processed; Dr. Orrin Walker was selected; his appointment as Librarian-Associate Professor has been finalized at the Regents' level, and he commenced his work on April 1, 1982.

There were 170 applications for six faculty positions. Of these, Drs. James L. Bross and L. Lynn Hogue have been appointed Professor of Law at the Regents' level; Dr. David J. Maleski has been appointed Associate Professor of Law at the Regents' level; and Dr. Norman A. Crandell has been appointed Visiting Associate Professor of Law at the Regents' level. Dr. Ray Lanier has been appointed as Visiting Associate Professor of Law, coming from a faculty position in the College of Business Administration; and Drs. Richard E. Greenstein and Linda Earley Chastang have been selected as Visiting Assistant Professors of Law and will be submitted for Regents' approval at the July, 1982 meeting. The faculty numbers seven, an additional position having been developed after the initial advertisements were made. These people bring substantial competence and experience to the law faculty.

Staff

On January 1, 1982, Mrs. Mary Roberts was employed full-time as an administrative assistant to the Dean and has been of invaluable assistance in coordinating the ongoing phases of development; she has been assisted by a part-time secretary, Mrs. Vicki DeLoach.

Law Library

As for the development of the Law Library there is no way to describe the extent of the effort and cooperation of Dr. Ralph E. Russell, Director of the

Pullen Library, and his staff extending for many years in the past, as well as during the initial period of development, in building up the "K" section (legal materials) of the university library. Their efforts together with the help of many faculty members in the Legal Studies Program of the Business School, have provided the College of Law with an initial Law Library of approximately 30,000 volumes. With their continued assistance and the added efforts of Dr. Walker and his staff as they are brought on line, by the September opening, it is expected that the Law Library will approximate 50,000 volumes and by the end of the upcoming year 60,000-75,000 volumes--adequate for provisional accreditation.

Fund Raising

Undoubtedly, the report of the Law School Fund Raising Campaign for the year 1981-82 will appear elsewhere, but it would be amiss to fail to note, in this annual report, the outstanding efforts of Ralph A. Beck, Assistant Vice President of Development and Mrs. Pat Sartain, Director of the Alumni Office. Naming them is intended to personify important contributions of time, talent and effort, as well as benefactions, of many, many others whose support in these various ways heartens and gives spirit to all who work for the success of the College of Law. As of June 14, 1982, the total received and pledged was \$684,597.

Curriculum

A curriculum has been developed for the first-year class composed of required courses which meet the accreditation standards of the American Bar Association and the requirements for admission to sit for the Georgia Bar Examination.

Feasibility Study

The Standards and Rules of Procedure for the Approval of Law Schools of the American Bar Association require the submission of a feasibility study prior to the commencement of any program of instruction. This is being prepared by Dean Ben F. Johnson of the College of Law and Dr. Margaret M. Sullivan of the Office of Institutional Planning. Prior to September 1, 1982, this will be submitted to the Council of the Section of Legal Education of the American Bar Association, its Accreditation Committee, and its Legal Consultant.

Accreditation Objectives

On August 18, 1981, when the Board of Regents activated the College of Law, it mandated that "because ABA accreditation is critical to the ultimate success of the Georgia State University . . . College of Law, ABA accreditation shall be pursued from the very beginning" Thus, accreditation goals for the College of Law have been established as follows:

1. At the end of the first year of operation, provisional accreditation by the American Bar Association;
2. At the end of the third year of operation, full accreditation by the American Bar Association;
3. At the end of the fifth year of operation, full accreditation by the Association of American Law Schools.